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ON A RUST OF THE CULTIVATED SNAPDRAGON.

BY W. C. BLASDALE.

During the summer of 1895 the writer found near San Leandro, California, the uredo stage of a rust growing on cultivated forms of *Antirrhinum majus*. Somewhat later the same rust appeared on some plants of the same host growing in my own garden at Berkeley. Both uredo and teleuto stages were produced and the fungus ultimately destroyed the entire group of plants. Specimens were submitted to Mr. E. W. D. Holway and to Dr. Dietel, and the species was published (*Hedwigia*, 36:298, 1899), by them under the name of *Puccinia Antirrhini*. Since that year the fungus has appeared every season in which an attempt was made to raise this annual, and in every case destroyed the plants shortly after they had reached the flowering stage. Further observations have shown that the disease is a common one in the region about San Francisco Bay, though I have no knowledge of its occurring elsewhere in the State. Since there is no record of a similar disease in other parts of the world, the question at once arises as to where it originated, since the period of time during which the snapdragon has been cultivated in California is comparatively limited. Thus far only four species of rusts which inhabit scrophulariaceous genera have been found in the State. These are *Puccinia wulfeniæ* D. & H. on *Wulfenia cordata*, P.

rufescens D. & H. on *Pedicularis semibarbata*, *Aecidium collinsiae* Em. & Ev. on *Collinsia bicolor* and an *Aecidium* (species as yet undetermined) on *Pentstemon confertus*. The two species of *Puccinia* present decidedly different characters from those of the species to which the snapdragon disease is due and it is very improbable that the latter is correlated with either of the two *Aecidia*. The first mentioned species has been found but once in the Bay Region and then in very small amounts, the latter is known only from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Further than this, badly infected snapdragon plants have been placed in close proximity to patches of various species of *Collinsia*, growing in the Botanic Garden of the University of California, for two seasons but the *Aecidium* has never appeared. Attempts to infect various other species of *scrophulariaceous* genera with the disease have been successful in three instances only. During the past season it was found that plants of the native *Antirrhinum vagans*, grown from seed, were attacked with nearly the same degree of destructiveness as the cultivated species. Also plants of *Linaria reticulata* and *L. amethystina* were attacked by the disease, but to a much less degree than the other species. No differences could be detected in the characters of the fungus grown on the four different host plants. Presumably then the snapdragon rust originated on the wild form of *Antirrhinum* but thus far the disease has never been found on plants growing spontaneously though diligent search has been made for it whenever the opportunity was offered. The only alternative is to assume that it is a case of adaption of a species from a host plant belonging to a different order. The destructive character of the disease would render it wise to guard against introducing it into other regions.

A NEW SPECIES OF SIROTHECIUM.

A. P. MORGAN.

In the *Symbolae ad Mycologiam* XX, p. 105, 1887, Karsten founded a new genus *Sirothecium* upon a single species, see Saccardo, *Sylloge* X, p. 270. This genus is more than merely a "phaeosporous *Sirococcus*;" it is probably more closely related to certain species of *Hormococcus* or *Trullula*. The following species rests well in Karsten's new genus.

SIROTHECIUM NIGRUM Morgan sp. nov.—Perithecia superficial, gregarious, subglobose, astomous, glabrous, black; the wall thin and fragile, dehiscing irregularly; the enclosed mass of spores brown. The hyphae wholly abjoined into long slender,